



DURING THE FLOOD, “WHAT SHALL I DO?”

Once the flood “watch” has escalated into a flood “warning,” pay close attention to the weather updates and information. The following are steps that can be taken while you are waiting for the order to evacuate.

- Move furniture, clothing, and appliances, where possible, to high shelves or to second stories if time permits.
- Bring outdoor belongings, such as patio furniture, indoors.
- Get your pre-assembled emergency supplies ready to take with you if you have to evacuate.
- If you are instructed to do so by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve.
- If you have underground fuel tanks, keep them full during flood season. If a flood is imminent, and the tanks are not full, fill them with water to prevent them from floating to the top and causing foundation damage.
- If ordered to evacuate unplug major appliances and/or computers as well as any other equipment that may be affected by a major power surge.
- If you are outdoors during a flood climb to high ground and stay there. Avoid walking through any floodwaters. If the water is moving swiftly, even water 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet.

If you are in a car and come to a flooded area, turn around and go another way. If your car stalls in floodwaters abandon it immediately and climb to high ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

- If you are instructed to evacuate listen to a battery operated radio for evacuation instructions. Follow recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts may be blocked. If instructed to evacuate do so immediately. Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division